GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6994
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
LABOUR STRIKE AGAINST LABOUR LAW
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 1 0 million employees o f the country`s State-run companies staged a one day strike on April 16, 2002 virtually paralying financial markets and ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the work in various sectors was affected by this strike and the financial loss suffered;

(d) the demands of the employees and workers;

(e) their reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to avert such strike in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (c): In the nation-wide strike called by the trade unions on 16.4.2002, approximately 10.5 lakh workers of the organized sector primarily from the financial institutions, coal and ports and docks participated. The financial loss suffered due to the strike has not been estimated.

(d): The strike was called to protest against the disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs),amendment in labour laws and downsizinig and closure of PSUs.

(e) & (f): The Government has initiated the process of labour reforms to meet the challenges o f privatization, liberalization and globalization. However, the Government is committed to safeguard and protect the interest of workers. The Second National Commission on Labour has been set up to suggest rationalization of the existing laws relating to labour in the organized sector and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganized sector.